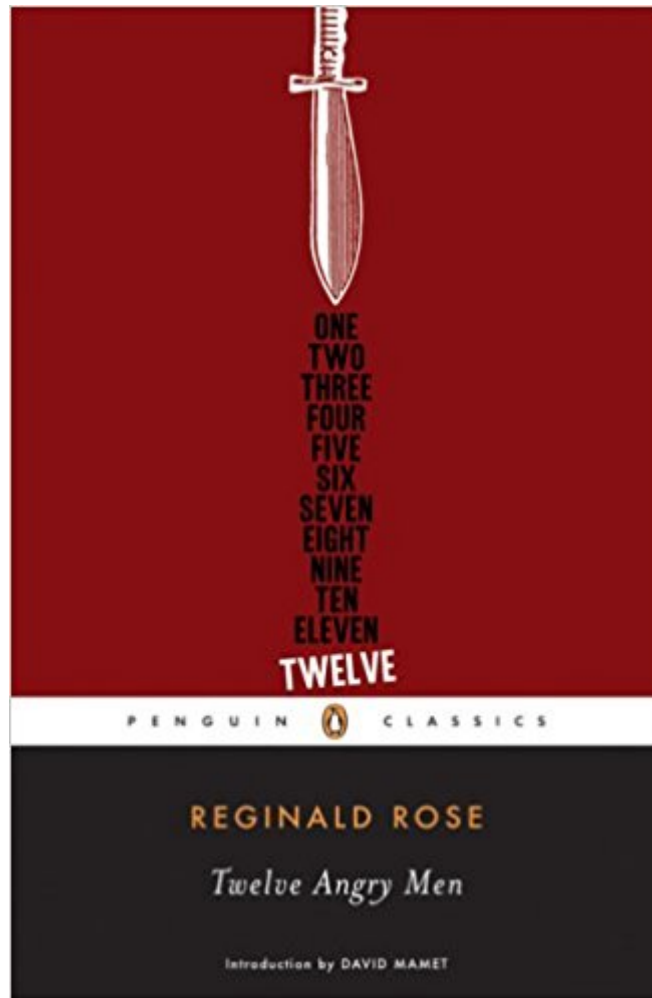




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# Twelve Angry Men (Penguin Classics)



## Synopsis

A landmark American drama that inspired a classic film and a Broadway revival—featuring an introduction by David MametA blistering character study and an examination of the American melting pot and the judicial system that keeps it in check, *Twelve Angry Men* holds at its core a deeply patriotic faith in the U.S. legal system. The play centers on Juror Eight, who is at first the sole holdout in an 11-1 guilty vote. Eight sets his sights not on proving the other jurors wrong but rather on getting them to look at the situation in a clear-eyed way not affected by their personal prejudices or biases. Reginald Rose deliberately and carefully peels away the layers of artifice from the men and allows a fuller picture to form of them—and of America, at its best and worst. After the critically acclaimed teleplay aired in 1954, this landmark American drama went on to become a cinematic masterpiece in 1957 starring Henry Fonda, for which Rose wrote the adaptation. More recently, *Twelve Angry Men* had a successful, and award-winning, run on Broadway. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

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## Customer Reviews

L.A. Theatre Works proves it knows how to package audio dramas with this new recording of Rose's classic play (which began as a 1954 episode of TV's Studio One and then was adapted to the screen in 1957 starring Henry Fonda). Sequestered in a closed room, twelve jurors must decide the fate of a young man who has been accused of first-degree murder and faces the death penalty. One juror must tactically argue to convince the other jurors that this case has significant "reasonable doubt." The talented cast, including Richard Kind, Hector Elizondo, Robert Foxworth, Joe Spano and Dan Castellanetta, provide 85 minutes of riveting entertainment, recorded in front of a live audience. The most trying aspect of this audiobook is matching jurors with actors since the jurors are simply given numbers and not names. The back cover of the audiobook is very helpful; it offers a photo of each actor along with his name and juror number. But it can still be a bit frustrating since characters are never referred to by name or juror number. This slight confusion certainly will not prevent people from enjoying this illuminating play about American justice. (July) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Over the course of a steamy and tense afternoon, twelve jurors deliberate the fate of a 19 year-old boy alleged to have murdered his own father. A seemingly open and shut case turns complicated, igniting passions and hidden prejudices. An L.A. Theatre Works full-cast performance featuring: Dan Castellaneta as Juror #5 Jeffrey Donovan as Juror #8 Hector Elizondo as Juror #10 Robert Foxworth as Juror #3 James Gleason as Juror #2 Kevin Kilner as Juror #6 Richard Kind as Juror #7 Alan Mandell as Juror #9 Rob Nagle as Juror #12 Armin Shimerman as Juror #4 Joe Spano as Juror #11 Steve Vinovich as Foreman/Juror #1 Directed by John de Lancie. Recorded before a live audience at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The jury, a small group of ordinary citizens entrusted with the task of deliberating together to reach a just decision, is an important symbol of American democracy. The jury in "Twelve Angry Men" is the embodiment of this ideal, the jury at its finest. "Twelve Angry Men" was the first play, and film, to focus on a jury deliberation, and the best. Many people have seen the film, and many more are familiar with the plot -- the story of how 11 jurors voted to convict a boy accused of killing his father with a switchblade, and how 1 man patiently and rationally persuaded them, one by one, to vote "not guilty." "Twelve Angry Men" began as a television show in 1954-55. The script was rewritten by

Reginald Rose and published in 1955. It was rewritten as a screenplay for its most memorable incarnation, the 1957 film directed by Sidney Lumet and starring Henry Fonda as the lone voice against conviction at the beginning, and Lee J. Cobb as the last holdout against acquittal at the end. In 1997, William Friedkin directed a new (but inferior) version, with Jack Lemmon in the Henry Fonda role and George C. Scott in the Lee J. Cobb role, suggesting that the particular power of this story of the jury has endured even after the much-criticized jury trials of the 1990s. Both films attracted stellar casts, suggesting that the roles were highly prized by actors. The play has been re-enacted countless times by high school students and amateur theater groups. By now it is not only part of our image of the jury, it has contributed to the essence of that image, and it has very likely influenced the way people approach their task when they are called for jury duty.

(ISBN-10: 1580813402 and ISBN-13: 978-1580813402) Oh, that "Studio One" my generation watched on the telly. My mouth just waters at the thought of such excellence that regularly came into our living rooms as live broadcasts. "Twelve Angry Men" was originally written as a teleplay for the 'studio' by Reginald Rose, who is also in receipt of my kudos for writing the screenplay for the movie of the same name starring Henry Fonda, and this audio CD, which was directed by David Mamet. A real class act, this. We don't know which actor is which, except by a process of elimination of the voices we do know. The remainder we can guess about, and 'the back cover of the audio CD matches up juror number to actor, which may not be of help; jurors are not referred to by name or number' at all, and the actors are no slouches either. (Publisher's Weekly) Actually, identifying the actors is the least of our problems, for in brief, we are sequestered inside the jury room alongside the twelve, eleven of whom are fighting the holdout among them who has reasonable doubt. Their problems become our problems. They react to every little thing, e.g. whether the window should be opened on a really hot day -- as well as the most serious things possible, which manifest themselves as "the seemingly open and shut case turns complicated, igniting passions and hidden prejudices." ("Book Description," author unknown). What will they ultimately do? And what about us? Contemplate, if you will, the vaunted American Justice System as it is, up close. This is an L.A. Theater Works production with a full, splendid cast, produced in front of a live audience, and is sold in the L.A. Theater Works store on .com. You can't watch "Studio One" (they were probably saved on kinescopes anyway, the technology that preceded videotaping and resulted in fuzzy, grainy, and distorted products for showing in different time zones.) But you can listen to this and truly enjoy it, over and over again.

You don't know their names. That's not important. You learn about their characters and their hearts. What they believe in the privacy of their own soul. All the prejudices. You find out who has the strength to not make it personal and to just concentrate on the facts. Dissect the facts and find out that even the facts are as questionable as the human heart. Well done!

I purchased this in order to produce this play in a community setting. Most of the shows my spouse and I had seen in this particular venue were light-hearted or comedic. We took actors we had not necessarily seen in serious roles and gave them a chance to take their talents to a new level. This show was definitely a hit. This was our first play to produce and we hope to do another one when the next season opens for a list of plays.

Good book very good book it's a nice lesson to every one don't judge a book by its cover that's what this book is saying you have to look for yourself

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